

Patent Application No. 09/965,534

Attorney Docket No. 81790.0219

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the application that is reflected in the Office Action dated April 2, 2003. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 11-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, claims 1, 5, and 7 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 11-13, respectively. Because claims 11-13 were indicated as being allowable, Applicant submits that all of the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. Claims 11-13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-10 are pending. The Summary and the Abstract have been amended in conformity with the amended claims.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 103

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens (U.S. Patent No.: 6,173,345).

As noted above, independent claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 11-13, respectively. Since claims 11-13 have been indicated as being allowable, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 7 is moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6793 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: July 2, 2003

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